

Glenda Wiles

From: William Nelson [wmzipip@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 4:35 PM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: streamside setback comment

February 6, 2008

TO: Ravalli County Commissioners Allan, Greg, James, Kathleen, & Carlotta
FROM: Bill Nelson 352 Grantsdale Road Hamilton 239-5203
RE: Interim Streamside Setback Zoning Regulations

I have lived in this valley since the spring of 1978 and like many, have seen many changes. In the late 1970s one only needed a checkbook and an excavation contractor to install a septic system. We can all see the wisdom of a septic permit system to provide a standard to protect both ground and surface water quality. The proposed interim zoning measure is just as important. Setbacks have been used and recognized in hundreds of other communities. Many municipalities have building setbacks in neighborhoods to provide continuity and protection of property values. Certainly, the aquatic ecosystem of the Bitterroot River and its tributaries are more important than the continuity of city streets.

I strongly urge passage of the proposed interim streamside setback zoning regulations to protect the adjacent aquatic ecosystem as explained by Chris Clancy and the rest of the Streamside Setback Committee during the hearing on February 6th at 1:00 PM. The wisdom of passing of this zoning in our County to protect the river and streams seems self evident yet there are those that oppose. The weight of the many benefits yielded by temporary zoning, as outlined by the committee, against the fears of the objectors is lopsided toward passage. There is no conspiracy here just common sense. The effected property owners as well as the public at large will benefit from these building limit protections. The Bitterroot's natural rivers and streams and the land and property immediately adjacent to them should be protected and preserved to be available in their natural or existing state for us our children and to theirs.

This is a legitimate regulation and should be passed without delay.

Bill Nelson

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There are two kinds of light--the glow that illuminates, and the glare that obscures.
- James Thurber

2/7/2008